

**From:** JRWORRELL@aol.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/22/01 8:50pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement Terms

Dear DOJ Pussycats:

The settlement with Microsoft for it's proven monopolistic practices is a sham. For several years after Microsoft gave me a free copy of one of their programs I was under the Microsoft spell. Then I began to wake up to the fact that some other very good software was beginning to dissapear from the market and that whether I liked the newer Microsoft offerings or not, which I often did not, I no longer had a choice. So, I was delighted when the DOJ took Microsoft to task for the way they were using their monopoly status to gobble up or destroy competitive internet access tools. I also hoped they would get whacked for the tactics they had used to wipe out other graphic user interfaces (including the software that ran on them) in order to establish the Windows monopoly.

I can tell you it was heartning when the court ruled against Microsoft...but, I can't tell you how sick it made me when you guys caved when it came time to access penalties and establish some rules with teeth to prevent more of the same from happening in the future. Why waste the taxpayers money on a fight, win it and then roll over an play dead? I am almost seventy and I don't have much to show for my working life but I still have my self respect for not caving in when the political winds called for something other than marshmallow gonads.

How about a second issue? For a few years there was hope for competitive, alternative software after Corel bought the Word Perfect and Quatro Pro products which Microsoft had almost killed. I was delighted because Corel had long been beating Microsoft's butt in the graphics area and I felt that this might provide some welcome competition. I began to use the Corel alternatives and was pleased with the results. Corel even began to make a position in Linux the alternative, open source operating system that dared to challenge Gates and company.

Then right in the midst of the antitrust proceedings guess who bought Corel? Now Microsoft has taken over the number one graphics product they could never come close to let alone equal and almost the last if not the last of the surviving office suites, not to mention the possibility of getting a foot in the door to muddy up the Unix/Linux products that Corel was into. Not a whimper from any DOJ pussycats? Talk about a slap in the face of justice and fair play.

Now about the settlement itself. What kind of a deal is it to punish someone by giving them the biggest marketing opportunity of the ages. Let them give free software to thousands of future buyers who know little or nothing about the software marketplace and who may never have a chance to see, use and compare a competitive product? All it does is serve to create a bigger more dominating monopoly. Doesn't anyone at DOJ have the integrity and guts to stand up to the politicians who have inspired this sham? Probably not!

Well, at best I can hope that someone read enough of this to classify it as an unequivocal and utterly damning condemnation of the settlement and those who have allowed it to happen after plainly whomping the crap out of Microsoft in court. You deserve more and we, the American public deserve more.

B.W.